Amendments to the Specification

On page 2, lines 6-10 of Application as filed, please replace the paragraph with the following paragraph, as amended:

While some technologies determine proximity through BGP, Traceroute, and/or Ping methodologies, such localization is typically based on either a DNS connection, or on dial-up links. For example, in some systems, such as available through Nortel, Inc., localization is based upon the location of a routing computer through which a telephone line is ~~line~~ connected to the Internet.

On page 8, lines 3-7 of Application as filed, please replace the paragraph with the following paragraph, as amended:

Figure 1 is a schematic view 10 of a network structure 10 established between a content provider 14, one or more mirror sites 18a-18k, and one or more user terminals 30a,30b. A service provider 22, *e.g.* an Internet service provider 22, having a provider address 26, is connected 24 ~~connected~~ to the network 12, such as the Internet 12. User terminals 30, *e.g.* 30a,30b, are typically connected 46 to the network 12 through the service provider 22.

On page 8, lines 13-23 of Application as filed, please replace the paragraphs with the following paragraphs, as amended:

The exemplary user terminals 30a,30b shown in Figure 1 comprise a processor 32, a display 38, and a user interface, such as a keyboard 40 and a mouse 42. The user terminals 30a,30b shown in Figure 1 also comprise a browser application 34, which includes a browser interface 44, through which a user can interact with the network 12. A unique IP address 36 ~~address~~ is also associated with each of the user terminals 32.

As seen in Figure 1, an exemplary content provider 14 is connected 16 to the network 12, which ~~provide~~ provides stored content 15 that is accessible to one or more user terminals 30. The content store 15 is often duplicated and stored within the content store 15 of one or more mirror sites 18, *e.g.* 18a-18k that are connected 20 to the network 12, to increase the speed and capacity to distribute the information 15 to a large number of user terminals 30.

On page 9, lines 9-12 of Application as filed, please replace the paragraph with the following paragraph, as amended:

A web page 108 (FIG. 5) is then generated 60, which includes a localized link 110, such that a user may selectably access the mirrored content 15 from the preferred mirror site 18 through the user terminal 30. When a user ~~selects the link 62~~ selects 62 the link 110, the user terminal 30 is automatically directed to the local mirror 18.

On page 9, line 38 to page 10, line 12 of Application as filed, please replace the paragraphs with the following paragraphs, as amended:

Figure 5 is a schematic view of an IP proximity resource allocation system 100, which provides localization links 110, such as in accordance with the localization process 50 shown in Figure 2. As seen in Figure 5, a request 102 is sent from a user terminal 30, having an associated IP address 36, to a network service 106, such as a web service 106. While the network service 106 may be located at a service provider 22 (FIG. 1), the network service 106 may alternately be located at other locations within the network environment 10. The request 102 includes a mirrored content ~~link 194~~ link 104. Upon receipt of the request 102 and link 104, the local information 92 is queried 58, to determine the preferred mirror site 18.

In one embodiment, a query 58 is run on the localization database 92, which includes ~~set~~ a set of localization data 94a-94k, comprising the number of hops

74 and measured latency 80 between each mirror 18 and the user's network 22. A set of rules is then run on the resulting data 94a-94k, to select the best mirror 18.

On page 10, line 36 to page 11, line 2 of Application as filed, please replace the paragraph with the following paragraph, as amended:

System ~~Advantag s~~ Advantages. The IP proximity resource allocation system 100 and method for localization of http links 50 provide significant advantages over existing content mirroring and localization systems, since localization in the system 100,50 is based upon the actual client IP address 36, rather than to a secondary location, such as to a DNS server to which a client terminal points.

On page 11, lines 19-23 of Application as filed, please replace the paragraph with the following paragraph, as amended:

Some preferred embodiments of the IP proximity resource allocation system 100 and associated method 50, such as available through AOL® (AOL LLC, of Dulles, VA) ~~America Online, Inc.~~, provide localization decisions which take place invisibly to a client user, within an environment in which both the client application 34 and server application 106 are integrated to seamlessly provide hyperlinks 110 (FIG. 5) to localized content 15.